

Amendments of the Claims:

A detailed listing of all claims in the application is presented below. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application. All claims being currently amended are submitted with markings to indicate the changes that have been made relative to immediate prior version of the claims. The changes in any amended claim are being shown by strikethrough (for deleted matter) or underlined (for added matter).

1. (Currently Amended) A method of indirectly forwarding a communication from a sender ~~using a service provider~~ to a recipient where a first address for the recipient is known or believed to be temporarily or permanently invalid, by sending the communication comprising at least the first address and communication contents to a forwarding service ~~separate from the sender's service provider and having an address different from that of the recipient~~, comprising the steps of:

- a) the forwarding service receiving the communication;
- b) the forwarding service looking up at least the first address in a database wherein the first address is registered with the forwarding service;
- c) the forwarding service retrieving at least one second address from the database, wherein the second address is registered with the forwarding service, which second address is associated with the first address; and
- d) the forwarding service sending the communication to the second address;

wherein the forwarding service is separate from a standard communications channel provided by a communications service and has an address different from that of the recipient; and
wherein the communication is indirectly forwarded to the recipient.

2. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, in which the first address is sent to the forwarding service as part of a forwarding address.
3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, in which the first address is a part of the communication, and further comprising the step, after step a, of extracting the first address from the communication.
4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 in which the first address for the recipient is selected from a group comprising: a telephone number, an e-mail address, a postal address, a uniform resource locator, an IP address, an IP address plus at least one time and/or date and/or duration, a file name, a file name plus a location, an instant messaging ID, a pager ID, a personal digital assistant ID, a cellphone ID, a cable terminal ID, a direct broadcast terminal ID, a telex number, a teletype number, and an online chat user ID.
5. (Original) The method of claim 1 in which the second address is selected from a group comprising: a telephone number, an e-mail address, a postal address, a uniform resource locator, an IP address, a file name, a file name plus a location, an instant messaging ID, a pager ID, a personal digital assistant ID, a cellphone ID, a cable terminal ID, a direct broadcast terminal ID, a telex number, a teletype number, and an online chat user ID.
6. (Original) The method of claim 1, in which the communication is selected from a group comprising telephone calls, electronic mail messages, postal mail, instant messaging communications, internet protocol communications, web pages, computer file transfer protocols, video transmissions, paging transmissions, personal digital assistant transmissions, cellphone transmissions, cable transmissions, direct broadcast transmissions, telex and teletype communications, and online chat transmissions.
7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, in which there is more than one second address in the database associated with the first address, and the retrieval step c further comprises the step of selecting one of the new addresses based on selection criteria.
8. (Original) The method of claim 7, in which the selection criteria comprises a password supplied by the sender.

9. (Original) The method of claim 7, in which the selection criteria comprises a time of day.
10. (Original) The method of claim 7, in which the selection criteria comprises a priority ranking supplied by the recipient, and the second address returned is a second address having the highest priority.
11. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 10, if a second address returned in step c is invalid, further comprising the step of repeating step d with a next-higher priority second address until a valid second address is found or all second addresses are returned.
12. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, in which there is more than one second address associated with the first address, and step d is performed for more than one of the second addresses associated with the first address.
13. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:
- if there is a password in the database associated with the new address, prior to forwarding the communication requesting a password from the sender;
 - receiving a password supplied by the sender;
 - comparing the password supplied by the sender to the password in the database;
 - and
 - only performing the sending step d if the comparison is successful.
14. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, if more than one second address is associated with the first address, further comprising the steps, after step c, of:
- sending a communication to the sender with identifying material associated with the more than one second addresses retrieved in step c and requesting the sender to choose from among the more than one second addresses;
 - accepting a choice from the sender selecting at least one of the more than one second addresses;

sending the communication to the selected at least one of the more than one second addresses.

15. (Original) The method of claim 1, in which the at least one second address was registered by the recipient.
16. (Original) The method of claim 15, in which the recipient periodically updates the at least one second address.
17. (Original) The method of claim 16, in which the periodic updating is done automatically.
18. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 15, in which, in addition to registering at least one second address, the recipient specifies at least one sender from whom the recipient does not wish to receive communications, and the sending step d of the method further comprises the step of not sending communications from the at least one sender specified by the recipient.
19. (Original) The method of claim 15, in which, in addition to registering at least one second address, the recipient specifies at least one sender from whom the recipient wishes to receive communications, and the sending step d of the method further comprises the step of sending communications only from the at least one sender specified by the recipient.
20. (Original) The method of claim 1, in which the at least one second address was retrieved by the forwarding service from a source other than the recipient.
21. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, in which the forwarding step (d) further comprises the step of including additional information in the communication.
22. (Original) The method of claim 21, in which at least some of the additional information is advertising.
23. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of sending a confirming communication back to the sender.

24. (Original) The method of claim 23, in which the confirming communication comprises at least the second address to which the communication was forwarded.
25. (Original) The method of claim 23, in which the confirming communication also comprises additional information at least in the form of advertising.
26. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, in which the first address and at least one second address are addresses in the same medium of communications.
27. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, in which the first address and at least one second address are addresses in different media of communications.
28. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:
- counting the number of communications forwarded for a sender in a selected time period; and
- not forwarding communications if the sender sends more communications to be forwarded during the selected time period than a selected limit.
29. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, if the second address retrieved in step c is invalid, of using the second address as a first address, and repeating the method from step b.
30. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, in which the communication is sent to the forwarding service by a server associated with a service provider.
31. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 30, in which the server is a mail server associated with the sender, and the mail server automatically sends the communication to the forwarding service when the communication is returned as undeliverable.
32. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 30, in which the server is a mail server associated with the first address associated with the recipient, and the mail server automatically sends the communication to the forwarding service when the mail server cannot deliver the communication to the first address.

33. (Currently Amended) A method of a sender sending a communication to a recipient via a forwarding service when a first address for the recipient is known or believed to be temporarily or permanently invalid, comprising the step of the sender sending the communication ~~using a service provider to a forwarding service separate from a standard communications channel provided by a communications service provider~~ and having an address different from that of the recipient, the communication comprising at least the first address and communication contents.
34. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 33 in which the first address for the recipient is selected from a group comprising: a telephone number, an e-mail address, a postal address, a uniform resource locator, an IP address, an IP address plus at least one time and/or date and/or duration, a file name, a file name plus a location, an instant messaging ID, a pager ID, a personal digital assistant ID, a cellphone ID, a cable terminal ID, a direct broadcast terminal ID, a telex number, a teletype number, and an online chat user ID.
35. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 33, in which the first address is sent to the forwarding service as part of the forwarding address.
36. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 33, further comprising the steps of:
- a) the forwarding service receiving the communication;
 - b) the forwarding service looking up at least the first address in a database wherein the first address is registered with the forwarding service;
 - c) the forwarding service retrieving at least one second address from the database, wherein the second address is registered with the forwarding service, which second address is associated with the first address;
 - d) the forwarding service sending the communication to the second address.

37. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 36, in which the first address is a part of the communication, and further comprising the step, after step a, of the forwarding service extracting the first address from the communication.
38. (Original) The method of claim 36 in which the second address is selected from a group comprising: a telephone number, an e-mail address, a postal address, a uniform resource locator, an IP address, a file name, a file name plus a location, an instant messaging ID, a pager ID, a personal digital assistant ID, a cellphone ID, a cable terminal ID, a direct broadcast terminal ID, a telex number, a teletype number, and an online chat user ID.
39. (Original) The method of claim 36, in which the communication is selected from a group comprising telephone calls, electronic mail messages, postal mail, instant messaging communications, internet protocol communications, web pages, computer file transfer protocols, video transmissions, paging transmissions, personal digital assistant transmissions, cellphone transmissions, cable transmissions, direct broadcast transmissions, telex and teletype communications, and online chat transmissions.
40. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 36, in which there is more than one second address in the database associated with the first address, and the retrieval step c further comprises the step of selecting one of the new addresses based on selection criteria.
41. (Original) The method of claim 40, in which the selection criteria comprises a password supplied by the sender.
42. (Original) The method of claim 40, in which the selection criteria comprises a time of day.
43. (Original) The method of claim 40, in which the selection criteria comprises a priority ranking supplied by the recipient, and the second address returned is a second address having the highest priority.
44. (Original) The method of claim 43, if a second address returned in step c is invalid, further comprising the step of repeating step d with a next-higher priority second address until a valid second address is found or all second addresses are returned.

45. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 36, in which there is more than one second address associated with the first address, and step d is performed for more than one of the second addresses associated with the first address.
46. (Original) The method of claim 36, further comprising the steps of:
- if there is a password in the database associated with the new address, prior to forwarding the communication requesting a password from the sender;
 - receiving a password supplied by the sender;
 - comparing the password supplied by the sender to the password in the database;
 - and
 - only performing the sending step d if the comparison is successful.
47. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 36, if more than one second address is associated with the first address, further comprising the steps, after step c, of:
- sending a communication to the sender with identifying material associated with the more than one second addresses retrieved in step c and requesting the sender to choose from among the more than one second addresses;
 - accepting a choice from the sender selecting at least one of the more than one second addresses;
 - sending the communication to the selected at least one of the more than one second addresses.
48. (Original) The method of claim 36, in which the at least one second address was registered by the recipient.
49. (Original) The method of claim 48, in which the recipient periodically updates the at least one second address.
50. (Original) The method of claim 49, in which the periodic updating is done automatically.

51. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 48, in which, in addition to registering at least one second address, the recipient specifies at least one sender from whom the recipient does not wish to receive communications, and the sending step d of the method further comprises the step of not sending communications from the at least one sender specified by the recipient.
52. (Original) The method of claim 48, in which, in addition to registering at least one second address, the recipient specifies at least one sender from whom the recipient wishes to receive communications, and the sending step d of the method further comprises the step of sending communications only from the at least one sender specified by the recipient.
53. (Original) The method of claim 36, in which the at least one second address was retrieved by the forwarding service from a source other than the recipient.
54. (Original) The method of claim 36, in which the forwarding step (d) further comprises the step of including additional information in the communication.
55. (Original) The method of claim 54, in which at least some of the additional information is advertising.
56. (Original) The method of claim 36, further comprising the step of sending a confirming communication back to the sender.
57. (Original) The method of claim 56, in which the confirming communication comprises at least the second address to which the communication was forwarded.
58. (Original) The method of claim 56, in which the confirming communication also comprises additional information at least in the form of advertising.
59. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 36, in which the first address and at least one second address are addresses in the same medium of communications.
60. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 36, in which the first address and at least one second address are addresses in different media of communications.

61. (Original) The method of claim 36, further comprising the steps of:

counting the number of communications forwarded for a sender in a selected time period; and

not forwarding communications if the sender sends more communications to be forwarded during the selected time period than a selected limit.

62. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 36, if the second address retrieved in step c is invalid, of using the second address as a first address, and repeating the method from step b.

63. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 36, in which the communication is sent to the forwarding service by a server associated with the service provider.

64. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 63, in which the server is a mail server associated with the sender, and the mail server automatically sends the communication to the forwarding service when the communication is returned as undeliverable.

65. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 63, in which the server is a mail server associated with the first address associated with the recipient, and the mail server automatically sends the communication to the forwarding service when the mail server cannot deliver the communication to the first address.

66. (Cancelled)

67. (Cancelled)